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MAJOR GENERAL THOMAS JAMES HANLEY, JR., USAF

Thomas J. Hanley, Jr., was born at Coshocton, Ohio, March 29, 1893, the third of six children of Thomas J. Hanley, Sr., who had come to the United States from Ireland, and the former Miss Mary Margaret O'Connor of Cresson, Pennsylvania.

He was graduated from the U.S. Military Academy and commissioned a second lieutenant of Infantry June 12, 1915.

His first assignment was with the 23rd Infantry at Texas City, Texas. In August, 1916, he was detailed to the Aviation Section of the Signal Corps and entered the Signal Corps Aviation School at San Diego, California. After graduating from flying school the following April, he was assigned to the First Aero Squadron at Columbus, New Mexico, and a month later transferred to Kelly Field, Texas, where he served successively with the Fifth and 19th Aero Squadrons.

In July, 1917, he transferred to Chanute Field, Illinois, as assistant officer in charge of flying at that station. He was designated assistant officer in charge of flying at Rich Field, Texas, in January, 1918, and the following month became commanding officer of the 274th Aero Squadron at Taliaferro Field, Texas. In March, 1918, he was appointed engineering officer and commanding officer of Taliaferro Field.

Two months later he was appointed commanding officer of Carruthers Field, Texas. From January to February, 1919, he took an advanced course in pursuit flying at Rockwell Field, California, and then returned to Carruthers Field, where he served until December, 1919.

He then transferred to Langley Field, Virginia, for service as executive officer and in June, 1920, was appointed commanding officer of the First Army Observation Group.

On July 1, 1920, he was transferred from the Infantry to the Air Service.

The following month he went to Post Field, Fort Sill, Oklahoma, to organize a detachment of the 135th Squadron and later went to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, in command of this unit. In November, 1920, he returned to Langley Field for duty as director of the administration course and as a student at the Field Officer's School, later redesignated the Tactical School. In May, 1921, he assumed command of the Second Provisional Bombing Group and the 14th Squadron.

He commanded the First Provisional Bombardment Wing briefly in September, 1921, and then returned to his duties as instructor at the Tactical School.

In December, 1921, he was transferred to the Philippine Islands and assigned to Kindley Field at Fort Mills, where he commanded the Second Observation Squadron from March to August, 1922, and the Provisional Administration Company until September, 1922. He then

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went to Camp Nichols, Philippine Islands, to assume command of the 28th Bombardment Squadron.

Returning to the United States in March, 1924, he assumed command of Crissy Field, California, and the 91st Observation Squadron at that station. He entered the Army Industrial College at Washington in August, 1924, and after graduating the following February was assigned to the office of the Assistant Secretary of War at Washington.

In August, 1928, he entered the Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and upon graduation two years later became assistant commandant of the Advanced Flying School at Kelly Field, Texas. In October, 1931, he transferred to the Primary Flying School at Randolph Field, Texas, for duty as executive officer and assistant commandant. In June, 1932, he became an instructor at the Command and General Staff School and four years later was appointed executive officer of Mitchel Field, New York.

In June, 1939, he was named assistant chief of staff for operations of the Puerto Rican Department.

He returned to the United States in June, 1941, to assume command of Mitchel Field, New York. Shortly afterward he was named chief of the First Air Force and in November, 1941, became First Air Force base commander. The following January he was assigned to AAF headquarters in Washington and appointed assistant chief of air staff for materiel. He later became deputy chief of staff of the AAF and in May 1943, assumed command of the Southeast Air Force Training Center at Maxwell Field, Alabama. In April, 1944, he went to Patterson Field, Ohio, for a brief tour of duty with the Air Service Command.

The following month he went overseas as commanding general of the China-Burma-India Air Service Command, with station in India. In July, 1945, he assumed command of the Army Air Forces in India and Burma, in addition to his duties of the Air Service Command.

Returning to the United States in January, 1946, he was assigned to AAF headquarters in Washington and in May of that year went to Air Defense Command headquarters at Mitchel Field, New York. He assumed command of the 11th Air Force at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, June 14, 1946.

He was appointed chief of the Military Personnel Procurement Service Division in the office of the Adjutant General at Washington, D.C. in March, 1948.

General Hanley became a patient at Walter Reed Army Hospital, Washington, D.C. in September, 1951.

General Hanley has been awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Medal, and American Defense Medal, and is an honorary member of the Yugoslav and Chinese air forces. He is rated a Command Pilot, Combat Observer and Technical Observer.

General Hanley and his wife, the former Miss Cecilia Meilleur of San Diego, California have 3 children, Lieutenant Colonel Thomas J. Hanley, III, USAF; the Reverend Dexter L. Hanley, S.J., and Cecile, 14.

PROMOTIONS

He was promoted to first lieutenant July 1, 1916; to captain May 15, 1917; to major (temporary) July 10, 1918; to lieutenant colonel (temporary) August 25, 1918. He reverted to his permanent rank of captain October 17, 1918; and was promoted to major on July 17, 1920; to lieutenant colonel (temporary) June 16, 1936; to lieutenant colonel (permanent) December 1, 1936; to colonel (temporary) March 1, 1940; to brigadier general (temporary) May 23, 1942; to major general (temporary) June 24, 1943; to colonel (permanent) April 1, 1944; to brigadier general (permanent) February 19, 1948, with date of rank from May 23, 1942.

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Up to date as of 3 October 1951.